



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE  
Karen Ross, Secretary

March 9, 2021  
Amended

Permit No. QC1533

**SPECIAL PERMIT TO SHIP FRESH BLUEBERRIES  
PRODUCED UNDER A SYSTEMS APPROACH IN FLORIDA AND GEORGIA  
FROM FLORIDA TO CALIFORNIA**

Under authority of Title 3, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 3154 (Secretary May Issue Special Permits), permission is granted to Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to authorize shipments of fresh blueberries, produced under a “systems approach,” grown in Florida and Georgia and shipped from Florida to California, which would otherwise be prohibited by CCR, Section 3266 Plum curculio and Blueberry Maggot Exterior Quarantine, CCR, under the following conditions:

FDACS shall ensure that the following conditions are met:

1. This is a program, using a systems approach involving pre-harvest pesticide applications, in lieu of fumigation with methyl bromide, to target the quarantine pests of concern: *Rhagoletis mendax* (blueberry maggot) and *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (plum curculio).
2. Prior to shipping, the FDACS shall forward a list of the approved participants to this office.
3. The pre-harvest pesticide applications shall be performed by applicators that are registered or certified in pest control.
4. The participants shall maintain records, including the date, quantity, type of pesticides used, etc., for all pre-harvest pesticide applications and the FDACS and GDA shall monitor the pre-harvest pesticide applications.
5. The pre-harvest applications shall begin after petal fall and shall continue every seven days from petal fall through harvest for both high bush, rabbit eye, or any other blueberry type.
6. The pre-harvest applications shall be made with products that are labeled (including by formulation) as targeting plum curculio and/or blueberry maggot, either a single product labeled for both pests (such as azinphos methyl) or by using two in combination (such as malathion – plum curculio and carbaryl – blueberry maggot). All treatments shall adhere to all applicable laws and regulations. All pesticides must be approved in advance by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.
7. The FDACS shall perform post-harvest hot water or sugar sampling (see Appendix A) for all blueberries produced under this systems approach and only lots sampled with negative results for both plum curculio and blueberry maggot are eligible for shipment under the terms of this permit.



8. Each shipment of blueberries shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by an authorized representative of the FDACS evidencing compliance with all of the systems approach requirements of this permit. This certificate also shall state the number of cartons in the shipment and the name and address of the consignee.
9. The vehicle transporting each shipment of blueberries authorized and certified under the terms of this permit to California shall be sealed at origin under the supervision of an authorized representative of the FDACS. The seal shall not be broken until arrival of the vehicle and shipment in California. All vehicles shall enter California through an Agricultural Inspection Station.

If the blueberries are shipped by air, the plane cargo container need not be sealed, provided each sub container is stamped, by an authorized representative of the FDACS as required by this permit. The stamp at all times shall be maintained by and under the control of the FDACS. Additionally, the participant is required to provide at least a 24 hour pre-notification in advance of shipment via an email including the phytosanitary certificate or other appropriate documentation having the equivalent information to California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Permits and Regulations, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services (PHPPS), at [Permits@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:Permits@cdfa.ca.gov). Documentation must include QC permit number and contact information for the appropriate FDACS representative. Failure to provide such notification shall be cause to eliminate a participant from the pilot program.

10. Each shipment of blueberries shall be subject to inspection by plant quarantine officials in California.

Violation of any of the conditions of this permit, or the detection of any serious live plant pest in any shipment authorized by this permit, shall be sufficient cause for immediate revocation of this permit and destruction of the fruit, or return of the fruit to origin at the expense of the shipper.

Unless earlier revoked, this permit is valid through December 31, 2021.

*Dean Kelch*

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